

countries around the world since its founding. From my district alone, we have had more than 200 students participate in this outstanding and innovative program and in the entire State of Maryland over 1,600 students have had this terrific opportunity.

These energetic and dedicated young men and women are academically well-rounded, involved in their schools and communities, frequently interested in careers of government and service, and eager to develop their leadership skills. In addition to representing all corners of the country and globe, they are culturally, racially, and economically diverse.

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council programs bring thousands of students to Capitol Hill each year in an effort to deepen their understanding of the realities of government, citizenship, and service. I know my colleagues and our staff appreciate the opportunity to discuss important local, national, and global issues with these bright and eager young students.

Essential to the success of these and other CYLC programs is the focus on learning through experience. Students are challenged with simulations, role playing, and debate. They are charged with applying those experiences to abundant opportunities for personal interaction among each other and with today's leaders. The greatest outcome of this type of educational experience is open dialogue, perspective sharing, and cultural exchanges that increase understanding, cooperation, and teamwork.

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council inspires and energizes young men and women who return to their homes, communities, and schools with the tools and commitment to be effective leaders both today and for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating CYLC on 20 years of positively impacting the lives of America's youth, our next generation of leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today my House colleagues and I are reintroducing the Patients' Bill of Rights. This bill will protect patients from the unscrupulous activities of HMOs and hold them accountable if their negligent actions harm their patients.

Although we have worked on this bill now for seven years, we have been thwarted at every turn by the Republican leadership, the Administration, and the insurance industry. We need to get this bill back on track.

President Bush promised his support for such a bill during his 2000 Presidential campaign. But in the end, it was his efforts that killed our bipartisan bill in 2001.

In spite of this setback, we remain undeterred. Working families have waited long enough for the rights they deserve that would be protected under this bill.

We were optimistic the Supreme Court would clarify the law on the side of patients, allowing state HMO accountability laws to stay in force. But the Supreme Court ruled against

patients, leaving a situation where at best HMOs may or may not be held accountable in state court and at worst HMO attorneys will use this ruling to avoid accountability altogether. This court decision only further underscores the need for action.

Unfortunately, it appears now that some in Congress not only want to protect the HMO status quo, but go further, under the guise of "medical liability reform," to make it more difficult for patients to get justice. Such reform would not only apply to cases of medical malpractice by physicians, but also severely limit accountability of HMOs and drug manufacturers.

We need a Patients' Bill of Rights to protect Americans from crafty HMO attorneys who avoid accountability by keeping victims and their families tied up in court for years. Without this needed legislation, only foreign diplomats, the mentally insane, and HMOs will be exempt from the consequences of their decisions.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BRANDON W. BURNER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Brandon W. Burner of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Brandon's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2009. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Brandon brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Brandon has attained a grade point average of 4.06, which places him at the top of his class of more than two hundred students. While a gifted athlete, Brandon has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Brandon has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Brandon has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Brandon has earned letters in both Varsity Football and Track and Field. He was named Honorary Captain of the Varsity Football team, selected as a 2004 delegate to the American Legion's Boys State and attained the rank of Eagle Scout as a sophomore. Brandon's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the lead-

ers at West Point. I have no doubt that Brandon will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brandon W. Burner on his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Brandon will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING MR. RON CHAPMAN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of his many loyal listeners in the Dallas-Forth Worth and the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, today I would like to honor my friend, Mr. Ron Chapman, for his many years of outstanding broadcasting and community involvement. With his wit, wisdom, and welcome voice, Ron Chapman has helped wake up, inform, and entertain millions of North Texans for the past 45 years.

Ron Chapman came to Dallas in 1959 and began working for KLIF-AM. In 1965, he joined WFAA-TV and for 2 years he hosted the teen dance show Sump'n Else! In the late 1960's, Ron helped bring KVIL to the top of the ratings as both the morning host and program director. Although he left KVIL in 2000, he did not go far. Ever true to his Dallas audience he moved to KVIL's sister station, KLUV-FM. There his morning show continued to consistently rank in the top 10.

Ron Chapman earned the very first National Association of Broadcaster's Marconi Award for Personality of the Year in 1989. As a testament to the quality of his work and his commitment to excellence in broadcasting, Ron Chapman was also inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2004. One of his radio colleagues described Ron as "the benchmark" of what morning radio should be, and I am sure his many listeners agree.

Ron Chapman is more than just a radio personality, to the people of North Texas, he is our friend. As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District, and as one of his many loyal fans, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Ron Chapman today in the United States House of Representatives.

Ron, many thanks for all that you have done over your distinguished broadcasting career. You will be fondly remembered and you will be deeply missed on the airwaves by the people of Dallas.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR DOUGLAS' FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commemoration of Arthur Douglas'